

Book reviews

Boundary and Space. An Introduction to the Work of D W Winnicott. By M Davis and D Wallbridge. (Pp. 196 incl. index; £9.00 hardback.) Karnac: London. 1981.

Winnicott's standing is such that many paediatricians and child psychiatrists who are not familiar with his writings feel they should be, but they have either not had the time to study his work, or have tried but failed to comprehend it. Winnicott has a reputation for being difficult to understand and I asked myself as I read this book whether I could recommend it to the 'average' paediatrician who is already swamped with reading matter.

The background to this volume lies in the formation of the Winnicott Publication Committee founded in 1975 to make his work better known to students. The committee appointed the authors to produce a general introduction to, and appraisal of his work. The book is divided into three parts. Part one discusses Winnicott's personal qualities and beliefs, and the evolution of his theory of emotional development. Part two, which forms the bulk of the book, describes and discusses in depth his theory of emotional development. Part three briefly considers the implications of his theory.

This is undoubtedly a comprehensive and useful introduction to Winnicott's ideas; it is well written, attractively produced, easy to read, and liberally sprinkled with quotations from his writings. It would make a valuable addition to the library of any serious student of his work. But what about the busy paediatrician who would like to know more about his ideas than 'good-enough mothering' and 'transitional objects'? If he is prepared to work hard and tackle this book—as is a medical student confronted with a basic text of physiology—then certainly he should read it; it is fairly short and not too expensive. But if the time, energy, or motivation is not there then this is the wrong book because it is not for the casual reader. Busy practitioners may do better to read selected chapters from *The child, the family, and the outside world* or *Collected papers: through paediatrics to psychoanalysis*. Although I didn't see him in action Winnicott's clinical skills always

interested me more than his theoretical ideas. I am not saying that his theory of child development is unappealing—far from it—but rather that as a clinician he was simply superb. Only a few would have had his ability to make such significant and therapeutic contact with children. In this respect, there can be no more worthwhile book to read than his *Therapeutic consultations in child psychiatry*.

BRYAN LASK

Clinical Paediatric Endocrinology. Edited by C G D Brook. (Pp. 684 incl. index; illustrated+tables. £48.00 hardback.) Blackwell: Oxford. 1981.

This is a new multi-author textbook of paediatric endocrinology under English editorship. It contains 35 chapters by 40 contributors, most of them from the UK and Europe, but with the USA and Australia also represented. The boundaries of endocrinology in paediatrics are wide and difficult to define but a comprehensive approach is taken here. This is reflected in the grouping of chapters into 8 major sections under the headings I Fetal growth and endocrinology: sexual differentiation; II Growth; III Puberty and problems of the reproductive system; IV The hypothalamopituitary axis; V The thyroid gland; VI The adrenal gland; VII Calcium metabolism; VIII Gastrointestinal hormones and carbohydrate metabolism. Because so many topics are covered individual chapters are necessarily short and many include several pages of references. The general standard of these reviews is high and each serves as a good introduction to the relevant original sources. The emphasis is perhaps rather less clinical and more physiological than the title of the book implies but such an approach enhances understanding of clinical problems and the practical advice given is generally sound.

It is to the editor's credit that the unevenness inevitable in a work with so diverse a company of contributing authors is not more evident. There are however,

apparent problems of balance between contributions. Some topics of major clinical importance (such as diabetes mellitus, hypothyroidism, and congenital adrenal hyperplasia) are given short shrift whereas others (such as the dysmorphic syndromes which are marginal to endocrinology and well described elsewhere) are allowed to occupy disproportionate space.

There is no doubt that this book represents a major contribution to the literature on paediatric endocrinology; despite the price clinicians with a special interest in this field will wish to own it and all paediatricians and endocrinologists should have access to it.

N D BARNES

MacKeith's Infant Feeding and Feeding Difficulties, sixth edition. By C B S Wood and J A Walker-Smith. (Pp. 334 incl. index; illustrated+tables. £8.00 paperback.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1981.

The first edition of this book, by Philip Evans and the late Ronald MacKeith, was published in 1951; thirty years later the sixth edition is the first to appear without the guiding hand of either. Christopher Wood and John Walker-Smith are to be congratulated on maintaining the qualities which made its five predecessors so popular, and much of the original graceful, lively prose remains. The chapter headings of recent editions have been retained, but various parts have been expanded or updated, and important new references added. These include sections on the various cows' milk preparations, on gastroenteritis, cows' milk protein intolerance, protein-energy deficiency syndromes, and metabolic disorders. A few pages on feeding problems in a multiracial society are a helpful addition. The appendices, which have always been one of the most useful aspects of the book, have been revised and one on the Codex alimentarius has been added. This last consists of a brief explanatory

note on, and reference to, the recommended international standards for infant foods drawn up jointly by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Health Organisation.

This small book contains nearly everything one needs to know about infant feeding and its problems. The drawings and graphs are good and clear, and only one photograph seems to have been badly reproduced. There are some criticisms; the bibliography for the excretion of drugs into breast milk is not as up to date as it should be, and some data are missing. Those caring for extremely low birthweight infants will not find their dilemmas discussed in great depth. Proof reading seems to have been too hasty; it is a pity to see the name Jelliffe misspelt on the first page, and annoying to be told at least three times to consult p. 000 for a cross reference. Despite these errors and omissions this is one of the most helpful and practical books available on a topic of fundamental importance.

PAMELA A DAVIES

Pediatric Respiratory Disease, second edition. Edited by J Gerbeaux, J Couvreur, and G Tournier. (Pp. 939 incl. index; illustrated+tables. £70.00 hardback.) Wiley: New York. 1982.

This book was written by a group of French paediatricians, radiologists, and physiologists associated mainly with the Hôpital Trousseau, Paris, and they tried to cover comprehensively respiratory disease in children. It deals with the anatomy (particularly from the radiological viewpoint) and physiology of the respiratory system, as well as common and rare disorders affecting the upper and lower respiratory tract, mediastinum, and chest wall. It gives brief information on the techniques of endoscopy, bronchography, pleural aspiration, and tracheostomy.

Overall it is disappointing. Although the description of some diseases is adequate the approach to treatment, in many instances, is at variance with accepted practice in the English-speaking world and often seems to be without scientific basis. There is an undue emphasis on rare disorders but the consideration of common conditions, such as asthma, is cursory.

The specific section on respiratory physiology is good and it is pleasing to

see a strong physiological approach in other parts of the book. The reproduction of radiographs is excellent.

Unfortunately there are a number of contradictory statements only a few pages apart and many errors of fact, such as the statement that obstruction from enlarged tonsils and adenoids is worse in the upright position; these may be partly the fault of deficiencies in translation.

This cannot be recommended to the average English-speaking paediatrician and it is unsuitable as a reference book for general practitioners and medical students: additionally its high cost will be a strong deterrent to widespread use. It will be of most value to the paediatrician with a specific interest in respiratory diseases who wants an insight into the current French approach; he may find it useful to have a review of some of the more important European literature.

PETER D PHELAN

Advances in Pediatrics. Vol. 28. Edited by L A Barness. (Pp. 500 incl. index; illustrated+tables. £37.25 hardback.) Year Book Medical Publishers: Chicago. 1981.

Advances in pediatrics has covered a period during which there has been an increasing number of advances to report; therefore it is not surprising that this is the largest volume to date containing 15 articles covering a wide range of subjects. Some of these are long (for example, 52 pages), and there are over 1300 references ranging from 265 for 'Current trends in the treatment of self injurious behaviour' to 6 for 'Anatomical asymmetries in the adult and developing brain and their implications for function'. The Preface states that articles most likely to benefit the practitioner and to offer the investigator a source of topics that have reached a degree of concreteness outside the laboratory but are still too controversial to be included in newer textbooks have been selected. Examples of the latter type are 'Thymic hormones and the immune system' and 'The somatomedins' both of which are excellent reviews of their subject but they leave so many open questions that at present they have little clinical application.

The clinician will find useful articles such as 'Lymphadenopathy in children' and 'Gastro-oesophageal reflux in children'. Neonatologists will appreciate the

review by J F Lucey on 'Clinical uses of transcutaneous oxygen monitoring', but may find the use of torr as the measurement of TePo_2 unfamiliar. Paediatric neurologists, endocrinologists, gastroenterologists, and those interested in adolescence will find relevant articles, but there is nothing for the cardiologist or renal physician.

This book will not satisfy everyone; it has the strength and the weaknesses of previous volumes of this type.

A J KEAY

Clinical Diagnosis in Pediatric Cardiology. By J R Zuberbuhler. Modern Pediatric Cardiology Series. Executive Editor R H Anderson. (Pp. 192; illustrated. £18.00 hardback.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1981.

The author intended to summarise the enormous amount of clinical material about congenital heart disease and to stress the importance of physical examination; he achieved his purpose very well by drawing on the great wealth of his experience. He shows how one can arrive at an accurate clinical diagnosis and how, with the aid of recent major advances in non-invasive diagnosis in particular 2-dimensional echocardiography, more and more patients with significant lesions are being managed on the history and physical signs in association with echocardiographic findings without invasive investigations.

The first chapters on history and general physical examination relate these features to the underlying physiology in a clear and detailed way, enabling the physician fully to understand their meaning. After this come chapters on a wide range of paediatric cardiac diseases each with an introductory clinical course followed by physical findings and their significance, and accompanied by beautiful illustrations, simple and clear diagrams, phonocardiograms, pressure traces, echocardiograms, and angiograms all of which clearly illustrate an important clinical feature.

I thought that the chapters on functional murmurs and the superb last chapter of the book on differential diagnosis, particularly the section on the assessment of the asymptomatic child with a murmur, were very useful.

I enjoyed this book immensely and learnt a great deal from it and I strongly